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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /152 W
---------- 089457
P R 261749Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8596
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8068

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MX, XM
SUBJ: BOGOTA MEETING OF LA FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA AND I DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOGOTA. MEETING WAS INTERRUPTED BY A CALL FROM FOREIGN MINISTER CARRIZOSA IN BOGOTA
TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS MEETING WHICH RABASA SAYS THE COLOMBIANS HAVE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 14 TO 16. RABASA AID IT WAS CLEAR THAT LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH WHOME HE HAD TALKED ENVISAGED THIS FIRST SESSION AS ONE TO BE HELD WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF US SECRETARY OF STATE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THIS WOULD BE A GOOD FORMULA PROVIDED IT WERE FOLLOWED PROMPTLY BY A MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICANS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE THOUGHT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE BETTER ABSENT FROM THE FIRST MEETING AS THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LATIN AMERICANS TO LET OFF STEAM AND TO GET OUT OF THEIR SYSTEM THEIR MORE UNREASONABLE PROPOSALS AND VIEWS. HE SAID HE WAS VERY ANXIOUS FOR HIS CLOSE FRIEND, THE SECRETARY, TO BECOME A SECRETARY OF STATE ACTIVE IN
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LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUT TO BE "NEITHER AN INTER-

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VENTIONIST NOR AN APOSTLE OF NEGLECT".

2. RABASA THOUGHT THAT FIRST MEETING IN BOGOTA WOULD DEDICATE ITSELF TO WORKING OUT COMMON POSITIONS INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED GREAT DISPARITY OF VIEWS ON MANY SUBJECTS. HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON PANAMA CANAL ISSUE. HE MENTIONED PARENTHETICALLY THAT PANAMANIANS WERE NOW QUITE OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE FOREIGN MINISTER TACK HAD BEEN GREATLY PLEASED WITH HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK. RABASA THOUGHT THAT TRADE AND ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE PRINCIPAL THEMES OF BOGOTA MEETING. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOME OF LOCAL PAPERS HAD QUOTED SECRETARY AS SAYING HE WOULD NOT ATTEND BOGOTA CONFERENCE IN ORDER "NOT TO FRUSTRATE IT". HE SAID THIS WAS UNFORTUNATE CHOICE OF WORDS AND HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT WELL RESULT FROM SOME FAULTY TRANSLATIONS ALONG THE LINE.

3. RABASA THOUGHT THAT A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER THE BOGOTA SESSION THERE SHOULD BE A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY NOT IN WASHINGTON AS THAT GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF THE PUPILS GOING TO SCHOOL TO GET THEIR LESSONS. HE SAID IT SHOULD BE IN "ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING LATIN AMERICAN DEM-OCRACIES" BUT TOOK MEXICO OUT OF THE PICTURE BECAUSE OF THE CUBAN PROBLEM. HE SAID IF CUBA WERE INVITED "AT LEAST FIVE COUNTRIES" WOULD NOT ATTEND WHILE IF CUBA WERE NOT INVITED, IT WOULD DISTRESS MEXICAN "PROGRESSIVE" OPINION. THIS LEFT ONLY VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND COSTA

RICA IN HIS VIEW. SINCE FIRST MEETING WAS IN BOGOTA, HE THOUGHT SECOND SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE ELSE AND SEEMED TO REACT QUITE FAVORABLY TO COSTA RICA AS A GOOD POSSIBILITY.

4. RABASA THOUGHT BY THE TIME OF THE SECOND MEETING, LATIN AMERICAN OPINIONS WOULD BE IN FAIRLY GOOD ORDER AND WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY IN NON-POLEMIC FASHION AND THAT PROBABLY A MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC CONFIDENTIAL

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DOCUMENT COULD BE DELIVERED TO THE SECRETARY. RABASA STRESSED HIS OWN MODERATION AND HIS DESIRE EVENTUALLY TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY THAT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND ABOVE ALL AVOID THE SITUATION OF APPEARING TO PLACE THE SECRETARY IN THE DOCK AS THE ACCUSED. HE THOUGHT THIS APPROACH WAS TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS AND BELIEVED THAT HIS LATIN

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AMERICAN COLLEAGUES FELT LIKEWISE.

5. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF HIS TREMENDOUS ADMIRATION FOR THE SECRETARY AND HIS STRONG FEELING OF PERSONAL FRIEND-SHIP, I BELIEVE THAT RABASA CAN BE COUNTED ON TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THESE FORTHCOMING SESSIONS, AND THAT HE WILL BE USEFUL TO THE SECRETARY, IF THE LATTER WISHES, AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO OTHERS. HE IS CERTAINLY ANXIOUS TO SEE A CONSTRICTIVE INTER-AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN THE COMING MONTHS AND TO AVOID MEETINGS ACCENTED BY STERILE DENUNCIATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.
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